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# Good Looking Pottery Goes to Lunch

by Doris Detjen



**W**ROUGHT by the magic touch of the potter, colored pottery enhances a table setting. It is attractive in its many colors, shapes and designs and adds a distinctive charm of its own. One of the loveliest of wares is made with Mohave Desert talc rock as its basic constituent which prevents crazing, chipping or scaling of glaze.

One of the favorite patterns produced by this line comes in such colors as red-wood, Mexican blue, golden glow, apple green and flame orange. Another ware comes in the soft matt glaze, in pastel tones of ivory, turquoise and yellow in addition to maroon, coral, turquoise, green and light yellow in gloss glaze. This ware comes in a graceful swirl pattern. The most popular pieces are in the dull matt finish in ivory.

A pottery from California comes in soft pastels, something distinctive among most pottery seen on the market. It has a dark blue floral design on a light blue background, while another pattern of this ware carries a plume design in blue on a pale orchid background with a cream border.

The present trend is toward combining two colors instead of the many mixed shades formerly popular. Usually heavier glassware is used with pottery, and silverware with colored handles is very effective to carry out the color scheme.

An attractive centerpiece appropriate with pottery may be arranged with gourds, dried peppers and pine cones. Interesting results also may be had with quaint little peasant figures which carry out the Mexican theme.

Pottery is now used for

many informal occasions and often as a decorative note in a room, but was much more generally used for ordinary purposes in its earlier periods. The development of a people can usually be followed through the development of its pottery or stoneware.

Stoneware played an important part in the early American home. The first American potters were Indians, but because of climatic conditions and the lack of suitable clay, the Indians on the East coast did not develop this art as fully as those west of the Hudson River. However, many pieces such as pipes and cooking pots are still coming to light in Rhode Island.

We do not find much earthenware or porcelain before the Revolution in American homes. Later our pioneers used large sturdy jugs and jars with one or two handles as storage for pro-

visions, and also on their long cross country journeys. These types show a very good sense of proportion in their lines. Such old pieces as these may be found from New England to Georgia.

An old world influence is shown in the early pottery of Pennsylvania and North Carolina, as the first settlers there were from Germany and Switzerland. The old plates, sugar and cookie jars made in these states have a wide range of colors; red, brown, sometimes black, or a deep cream with slip decorations. One of these old plates with a background in cream and red, and a cream colored jug with figures of red and green slip, make interesting decorations sitting on an old Dutch cupboard.

The art of pottery dates back to prehistoric times and is considered one of the earliest evidences of man's artistic ability. The personality of the worker is reflected in his pottery. It is full of vital interest from its oldest and crudest relic down to the most modern and expensive product of our modern potteries.

Pottery has risen from a purely utilitarian rank to one of vast ornamental value, and is appreciated by both home-maker and collector.

Attractive pottery not only enhances the charm of a luncheon table, but also adds a cheery note of color wherever it is placed. However, if you are using pottery for a table setting, remember that it is comparatively heavy and informal and will not combine well with fine china and delicate glassware. Pottery with unusual design and subtly blended colors has a charm of its own which adds variety to the table.

